



# Padre Island National Seashore SandDollar



**Friday, May 21, 2004**

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## **Superintendent**

It will be great getting together this Friday for Marilyn's send off party. I almost called our fajita lunch a goodbye party, but that would not at all be accurate. After more than twenty dedicated years of service to the government, Marilyn gets to retire and get down to the really fun stuff in life. She will always remain a big part of our family, and I know we will be seeing her at the park regularly. So this is not a goodbye party, but rather a send off or "see ya later party." Marilyn graciously agreed to have her send off a week early because I will be gone next week. My youngest daughter graduates from high school next week, and as a parent it is one of those events you just don't want to miss.

This is a really exciting time of year in the park with the advent of your collective work on Sea Turtle Recovery, visitation increases, bird migrations, and some of the exciting initiatives that PAIS is involved in. I have been so impressed by the young people who have come to Padre with AmeriCorps, the more than 140 turtle volunteers, our SCA's, and Interns. Thank you all for assistance and dedication in helping us all meet our mission of preserving this little slice of heaven. The world needs places like Padre Island, and you all are doing your part to make sure it is cared for. Recently I have been spending time, or in communication with Senate Staff, our Directorate, and Departmental staff. These folks are consistently amazed at the level of work we do and the issues we deal with here at Padre.

I continue to look for ways to assure there is good communication lines open and effective here at the seashore. Squad notes, the Sand Dollar, and PAIS Today, are all components we using to make sure accurate information is available to everyone. In the future we will be implementing some different correspondence procedures I think will enhance this, as well as all employee meetings.

The suggestions coming forward have been great, keep it up, it really does help.

Stay safe!  
Colin

Colin's schedule:

Friday, 5/21 In the Park; Marilyn's Potluck @ 12 Noon

Monday, 5/24 –

Monday, 5/31 Out of the Park; A/L to Moose, WY

During Colin's absence from the park, Randy Larson will be "acting" superintendent.

## *Safety Notes--*

*Your contributions are greatly appreciated for the SandDollar and the safety bulletin board. Please send safety contributions to Pat.*

Let's continue to encourage each other to be safe.

Make it a safe day.

FIRST AID & CPR CLASS - -  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2004,  
AT 8AM TO 3PM-ISH  
TRAINING ROOM IN THE TRAILER

Chiefs and supervisors please send names to Pat by email or voice mail as soon as possible. Thank you!

MAY is a great month. Why? You ask. Because:

MAY 2 -8 is Be Kind To Animals Week

MAY 16 -22 is Emergency Medical Services Week

MAY 22- 28 is Safe Boating Week

## Employees Association News

Jerry Seinfeld will be performing at the Selena Auditorium at 7:00 pm on Friday, July 16, 2005. Tickets go on sale May 22, 2004. If you are interested in attending please let Dimitra know. Tickets will be approximately \$45.00 + a service charge. An 8 ticket limit per purchaser is being enforced. If more than 8 people would like to go, we will definitely need an additional 'ticket buyer.'

### Administration

Visitor Use Assistant Vacancy: The Visitor Use Assistant (fee collector) position is now open through June 2. Applications must be sent to Petrified Forest and must be received by 3:00 p.m. on the closing date (NOT POSTMARKED). Announcement PAIS-E-5A all sources; Announcement PAIS-E-5B merit promotion.

Dispatch Vacancy: Big Bend is advertising this position for us. PAIS-E-4, Telecommunications Equipment Operator (OA), GS-0390-4/5, open May 14-28, 2004, all applications (merit promotion and general public) must be sent to Big Bend. Applicants wishing to be considered under both procedures must submit two applications; if only one application is submitted it will be applied under delegated examining procedures which are for the "general public." Applicants must be able to type 40 words per minute and typing speed must be indicated and certified. You need to identify specifically for which grade level(s) you are applying.

Maintenance Worker Vacancy: Big Bend is expected to advertise the Maintenance Worker, WG-4749-5, vacancy possibly next week. They will advertise both merit promotion and all sources. More information to come.

The above announcements will be posted at [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov) and a copy will be put on the HQ bulletin board.

Joe Hanisco's last day is June 11.

### UPCOMING TEL EVENTS:

DATE	DAY	BROADCAST	TIME
25-May	Tuesday	Preparing & Presenting an Effective Interpretive Talk	12:00-4:00pm
26-May	Wednesday	Presentation Techniques	12:00-4:00pm
27-May	Thursday	Heat Loss Prevention	?
3-Jun	Thursday	The Interpretive Analysis Model	12:00-4:00pm
8-Jun	Tuesday	Interpretive Techniques/Create Opportunities for Connection	12:00-4:00pm
10-Jun	Thursday	Administrative Grievances-What You Don't Know Could Hurt You	2:00-4:30pm
15-Jun	Tuesday	Informal Interpretation	12:00-4:00pm
16-Jun	Wednesday	The Interpretive Process Model	12:00-4:00pm
22-Jun	Tuesday	Partnership Agreements	?
13-Jul	Tuesday	Grant Proposals for External Funding	?
19-Jul	Monday	NPS Recreation & Preservation Programs	1:30-3:30pm
10-Aug	Tuesday	Dealing with Misconduct & Progressive Discipline	10:00-12:00pm
10-Aug	Tuesday	Resolving Performance Issues	2:00-4:00pm
26-Aug	Thursday	Retirement Planning for New Employees	2:00-4:00pm

### TEL training

5/27 Heat injuries - reduce the risk of heat injuries  
(2 classes: 9-11:00 or 1-3:00). Contact Jeanie if you would like to attend.

The TEL training registration has changed except for the Heat Injuries course listed above. For all future classes, you must notify Jeanie which course you want to take, she will have to register the site, then the employee will have to go to <http://mylearning.nps.gov> to register themselves for the class.

My Learning Manager will also have all other service wide training listed and the employee will sign up for classes/training. Once an employee registers for a class an email will automatically be sent to their supervisor for approval.

## **Facility Management**

- Please utilize all the time allotted when using the wash rack. Do not drive off, leaving the wash cycle still on.
- The vault facility at the BIB Boat Ramp is in operation and the crew and AmeriCorps are working on the second one.
- The third and fourth vault will be installed at North Beach and replace the Nature Trail one.
- The sprinkler contractor will be taking some of the ceiling tiles out in the HQ offices in order to determine where the sprinkler heads will be placed. It will mostly affect the north side offices for about 15 to 30 minutes.

Friday, May 21, will be AmeriCorps last day and I would like to thank them for all of their assistance they provided

## **Interpretation**

The next Adopt-a-beach clean-up will be on September 18.

## **Protection**

We trust folks are gleaning information from "PAIS Today." We ask that you contribute to the each day's information particularly in the sections for park events and meetings so that "PAIS Today will be useful for all park employees. To repeat from last week's SandDollar, PAIS Today will focus on relevant "daily" events to facilitate everyone in the park knowing what significant events occurred the previous day in the park, what meetings or events are planned for a given day, the current day's weather, the following day's weather forecast, BOLO's (Be on the Lookout), ATLS (Attempts to Locate) and a park status section that will include info on matters like "Yarborough Pass is closed." PAIS today will not replace the SandDollar as the Sand Dollar is intended to have more general related information and PAIS

Today will focus on daily current events. PAIS Today will be produced each night Sunday through Thursday and available for reading the following morning Monday through Friday. You can read it on the N:Drive in a file labeled "Morning Report" or by hard copy located at the Visitor Center, Maintenance Lunch Room, Ranger Trailer, or the HQ Lunch Room.

Several positions in the ranger division are open at this time. Permanent positions as a Visitor Use Assistant (GS-4) and Telecommunications Equipment Operator (GS-5) will be announced on USAJOBS. Both positions are announced "All Sources" so employees without status are able and encouraged to apply. Also, we are looking for employees who are interested in working temporarily at the Entrance Station or the Dispatch Center beginning in June and continuing possibly into July and August. Employment is flexible with opportunities for overtime on lieu days or on a more regular basis for employees whose employment may be ending. Both positions require background checks. Feel free to call Sharon, Tom, or Randy for additional information.

Randy Scoggins will be coordinating a boat operators' course June 6-8. An extra slot or two are open to other park employees who have permission to attend from their supervisor. Please forward your nomination to Randy.

We continue to receive reports about the "problem" coyote who is hanging out around mile 5-8. Please report any sightings and/or behavior problems to Randy or Darrell.

Congratulations to Rachel, Clarissa, Buzz, and Randy S. for representing the park in the Beach to Bay Marathon. Their fast times put the Padre team in the top 20th percentile. Way to go team!!!

## **Resources Management**

### **Personnel:**

- Arlene is attending the Interagency Wildfire Academy in Lufkin. She will be traveling to the park on Friday, May 21.

- Katie returned to the park from fire training on May 18.

#### Projects:

- Kristin Dunbar has joined our staff. Kristin is an SCA intern from the Dallas/Fort Worth Area. She is currently attending University of North Texas with a major in biology. Her career goal is to work for the National Park Service once she has completed her degree. She will be helping with field projects, data processing, and other RM projects. Her radio number is 504. Kristin is a great addition to the RM staff.
- As a reminder Katie Morris' radio number is 503. Kristin is now 504 so Katie will not be answering 504 anymore.
- During the International Shorebird Survey conducted on Monday and Wednesday, 2,100 shore birds of 17 species were counted between Ranger Road and the north boundary and between 2.5 MM and 8 MM. The survey will be conducted every ten days between May and July.
- Thursday, May 27, will be the final sample day for mist-netting Neotropical Migratory birds. Sample will resume next spring.
- The Colonial Waterbird Count will be conducted on Monday, May 24. Dr. Chaney will be assisting us with the counts. The counts are simultaneously conducted throughout the Texas Coast.
- Darrell and Colin met with the Corps of Engineers in Galveston on Monday to discuss the dredging of the Laguna Madre.
- We will be sampling the washover basin at the 46-MM Wednesday, May 26. Anyone interested in helping please contact Katie.

#### Oil and Gas

- BNP is moving the drilling rig in on Thursday, May 20, at Pan Am Road. Drilling begins Sunday and will continue for 45 days.

## Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery

On May 17, a visitor flagged down turtle patroller Jeanniemae Febus at the 29 mile marker, saying that they saw a Kemp's ridley turtle lay eggs there. Ninety-six eggs were located at this nest, which is clutch 15 for the Texas coast. Later that day, turtle patroller Luis Diaz found a set of tracks at the 43 mile marker, but the adult female did not lay eggs at this site (false crawl). Cynthia Rubio found a nesting ridley at the 39 mile marker and located clutch 16.

Through May 19, 17 Kemp's ridley nests have been found on the Texas coast including one on Bolivar Peninsula, two on Galveston Island, one on North Padre Island north of Padre Island National Seashore, seven at Padre Island National Seashore, two on South Padre Island, and four on Boca Chica Beach. Eggs from 11 of the nests (including the nests found on Bolivar Peninsula, Galveston Island, and North Padre) are being held in our incubation facility for protected care. The eggs from South Padre and Boca Chica are being held in a corral (screen enclosed area) on South Padre Island).

**Hatchling releases will start this month** - Baby turtles hatched in our incubation facility here will be released here starting in late-May. The hatchlings are released when they are physically ready and enter their infantile frenzy, typically sometime during a span of a few days that Donna predicts. The release date predictions for the nests currently held in the incubation facility are listed in the table below. As during past years, the staff and public will be invited to attend many of our hatchling releases. However, it is not possible to invite people to watch those releases that occur when the turtles enter their frenzy at unpredictable times, during the night, or during weather conditions that could be unsafe for the turtles or people (i.e., thunderstorms, very high tides, etc.). So, to increase the chance of seeing a release, we advise interested individuals to try to attend when hatchlings from more than one nest are predicted to be released. As we near the predicted release dates for each clutch, Donna will update information about the releases on the Hatchling Hotline (telephone 949-7163). As during previous years, the Hatchling Hotline will be the best source of the most current information on the next release.



**PREDICTED HATCHLING RELEASE DATES FOR NESTS BEING HELD AT  
THE  
PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE INCUBATION FACILITY**

<b>Nest # (Species)</b>	<b>Date Found</b>	<b>Hatchlings will Likely be Released Sometime Between these Dates</b>
1 (Kemp's ridley)	April 5	May 22-27
2 (Kemp's ridley)	April 17	June 3-8
5 (Kemp's ridley)	April 26	June 13-18
6, 7 (Kemp's ridley)	May 1	June 17-23
8 (Kemp's ridley)	May 2	June 18-24
10, 11 (Kemp's ridley)	May 11	June 27-July 2
14 (Kemp's ridley)	May 14	June 30-July 5
15, 16 (Kemp's ridley)	May 17	July 3-8

Note that nests 3, 4, 9, 12, 13, and 17 are being held in a corral on South Padre Island, Texas

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